**Loss of employment due to economic recession**

518. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the loss of employment in various sectors due to economic recession; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) In a sample survey conducted by Labour Bureau covering 2581 units in 20 centres across 11 States/UT relating to important sectors like mining, textiles, metals, gems & jewellery, automobile, transport and IT/BPO, it was observed that about half a million workers have lost their jobs during the quarter October-December,2008. The major impact of the slowdown was observed in the export oriented units. The overall decline in employment was observed in gems & jewellery, transport and automobiles by 8.58%, 4.03% and 2.42% respectively.

In a similar survey conducted by Labour Bureau covering 3192 units in 21 centres across 11 States/UT relating to sectors like textiles and apparel, handloom powerloom, leather, metals, gems and Jewellery, automobile, transport and IT / BPO, it was observed that the employment in selected sectors has increased by a quarter million during the January-March, 2009 period. The sectors registering increase in employment during January-March, 2009 period are gems & jewellery (3.08%), textiles (0.96%), IT-BPO (0.82%), handloom/powerloom (0.28%) and automobiles (0.10%). However, the decline in employment during January-March, 2009 has been observed in leather (2.76%), metals (0.56%) and transport (0.36%).

The action taken by the Government to mitigate the adverse impact of economic slowdown includes three stimulus packages, various measures announced by the Reserve Bank of India, Implementation of the 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' wherein the insured worker and his family are entitled to about 50% of wages upto a period of one year and medical benefits in the case of loss of job, schemes such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Aam Admi Bima Yojana, and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, skill upgradation/training programmes, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme etc.

**Amendment in labour law**

†519. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change the labour laws in consultation with labour organization and trade and industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has prepared any draft for the amendment in labour laws;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when Government intend to change these labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy. The required changes in the labour laws are accomplished by the Government after detailed consultation with the social partners with a view to harmonize the interests of all stake holders. The Bills to amend Acts like Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 have been introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

**Retrenchment in IT, Aviation and Retail sector etc.**

520. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the large scale retrenchment still continues in various sectors like IT, Aviation, Retail etc.;

(b) whether the global meltdown has had a direct impact on almost all the sectors;

(c) if so, the sector-wise details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent retrenchment and ensure employment in view of "Manpower rationalization"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Labour & Employment has conducted two quick quarterly surveys of a few important sectors to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment in India. The first survey was conducted in the month of January, 2009 to assess the impact during the quarter October-December, 2008. The second survey was conducted in the month of April, 2009 to assess the impact during January-March 2009. The important findings of the survey for the quarter October - December 2008 are:

- About half a million workers have lost their jobs during October-December 2008.
- The most affected sectors were gems & jewellery, transport and automobiles where the employment has declined by 8.58 per cent, 4.03 percent, and 2.42 per cent respectively during the same period. In Textile sector, 0.91 per cent of the workers have lost their jobs.
- The major impact of the slowdown was noticed in the export oriented units.

However, the second survey conducted for the quarter January-March, 2009 indicates that:

- Total estimated employment in the sectors covered had increased by 0.6% during January-March, 2009 period. Non-export units have shown higher rate (0.92%) of increase in employment as compared to export units (0.28%).